Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 24, 2015

Prepared by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports are received.

SUMMARY

During the week ending October 24, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **NO ACTIVITY** in terms of geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers increased. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Maryland Emergency Departments and the proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI both increased slightly but remained at low levels. Clinical laboratories reported a low number of specimens testing positive for influenza. No specimens tested positive at the DHMH lab. A total of three influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. No respiratory outbreaks were reported. Nationally, influenza activity was low.

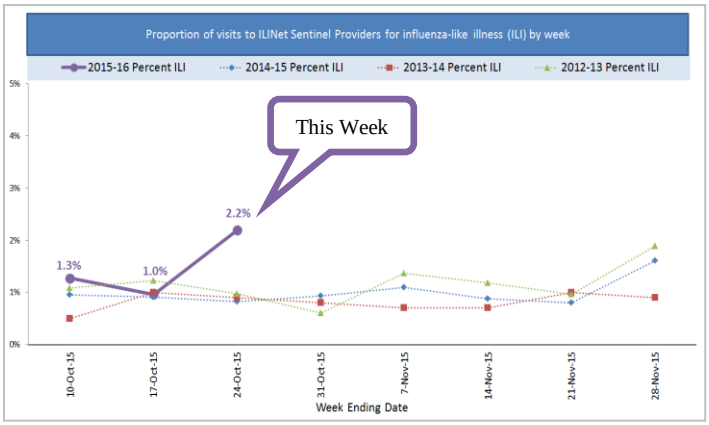
Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page

ILI Intensity Levels
✔ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
✔ No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

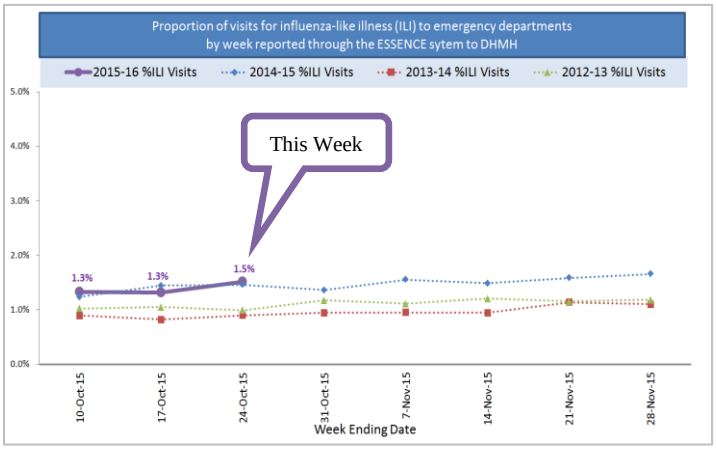
Twenty-three sentinel providers reported a total of 4,973 visits this week. Of those, 109 (2.2%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of **1.8%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	32 (29%)	19 (31%)	74 (29%)
Age 5-24	40 (37%)	29 (47%)	109 (43%)
Age 25-49	21 (19%)	7 (11%)	40 (16%)
Age 50-64	9 (8%)	5 (8%)	18 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	7 (6%)	2 (3%)	12 (5%)
Total	109 (100%)	62 (100%)	253 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 48,141 visits this week through the ESSENCE surveillance system. Of those, 727 (1.5%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	208 (29%)	162 (24%)	545 (27%)
Age 5-24	231 (32%)	211 (32%)	660 (32%)
Age 25-49	189 (26%)	178 (27%)	539 (26%)
Age 50-64	64 (9%)	76 (11%)	190 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	35 (5%)	38 (6%)	106 (5%)
Unknown	--	--	--
Total	727 (100%)	665 (100%)	2040 (100%)

Neighboring states' influenza information:

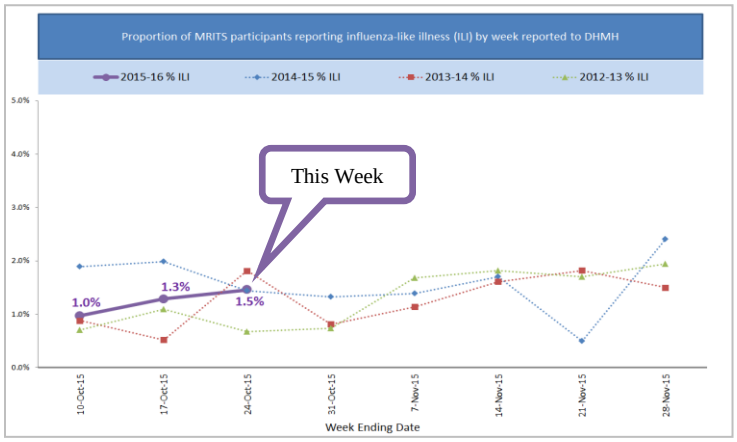
Delaware	http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html
District of Columbia	http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza
Pennsylvania	http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161
Virginia	http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/flu/
West Virginia	http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 24, 2015

Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

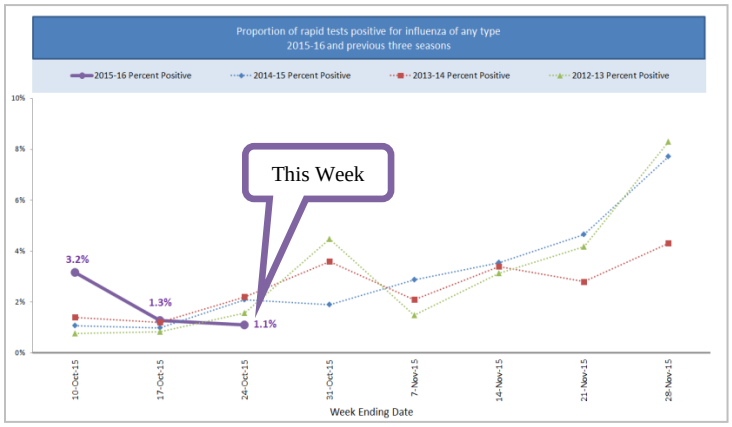
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 618 residents responded to the MRITS survey this week. Of those, 9 (1.5%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 25 days of regular daily activities.



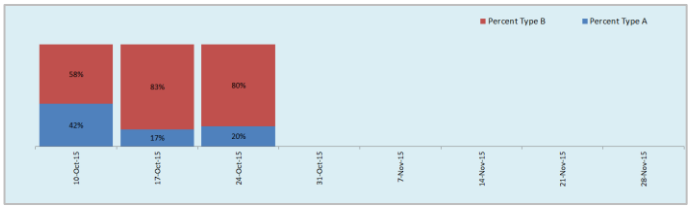
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	--
Age 5-24	3 (33%)	1 (13%)	4 (17%)
Age 25-49	3 (33%)	2 (25%)	6 (26%)
Age 50-64	1 (11%)	4 (50%)	7 (30%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (22%)	1 (13%)	6 (26%)
Total	9 (100%)	8 (100%)	23 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-eight clinical laboratories reported performing 455 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 5 (1.1%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 1 (20.0%) was influenza Type A and 4 (80.0%) were influenza Type B. The reliability of RIDTs depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

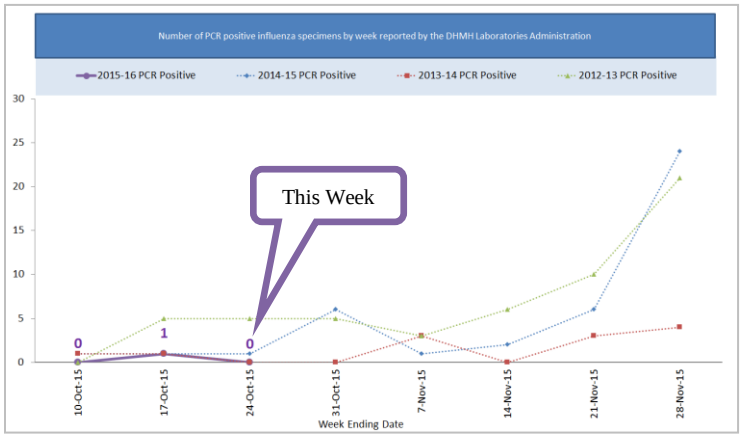


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	1 (20%)	1 (17%)	7 (30%)
Type B	4 (80%)	5 (83%)	16 (70%)
Total	5 (100%)	6 (100%)	23 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 75 PCR tests for influenza and no specimens tested positive for influenza. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	--	--
Type A (H3)	--	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
Type B	--	--	--
Total	--	1 (100%)	1 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

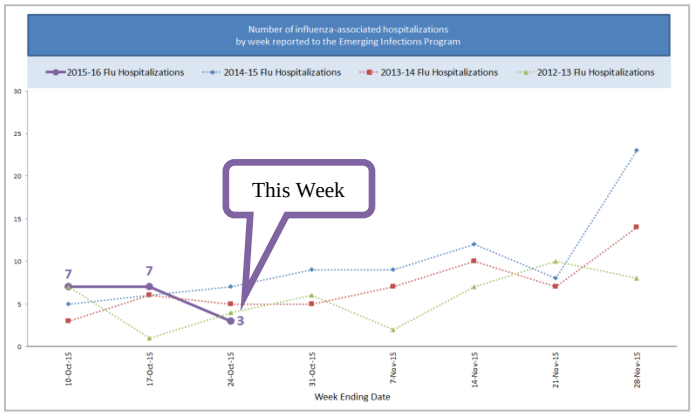
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2015-16 influenza season? Go to http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 24, 2015

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

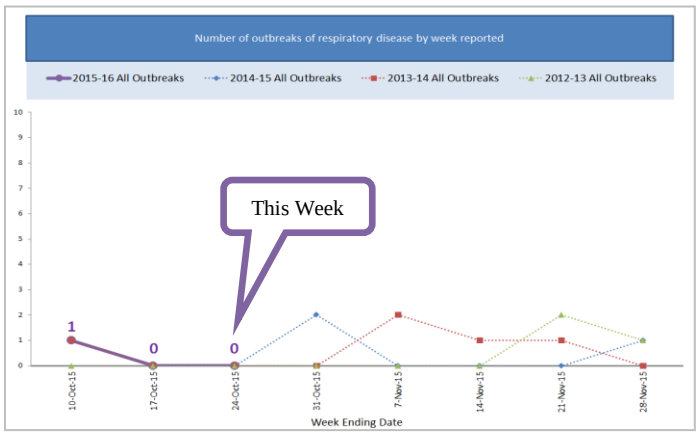
A total of 3 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (33%)	1 (14%)	2 (12%)
Age 5-17	--	1 (14%)	1 (6%)
Age 18-24	--	--	--
Age 25-49	1 (33%)	2 (29%)	3 (18%)
Age 50-64	--	2 (29%)	4 (24%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (33%)	1 (14%)	7 (41%)
Total	3 (100%)	7 (100%)	17 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were no respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	--
Pneumonia	--	--	1 (100%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	--	1 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 42 (October 18-24, 2015), influenza activity was low in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories in week 42 was influenza A viruses, with influenza A (H3) viruses predominating. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories is low.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below their system-specific epidemic threshold in both the NCHS Mortality Surveillance System and the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported that occurred during the 2014-15 season.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.3%, which is below the national baseline of 2.1%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico experienced moderate ILI activity, New York City and 50 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Guam and one state was reported as regional activity; six states reported local activity; Puerto Rico and 35 states reported sporadic activity; and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight states reported no influenza activity.